



## California Air Toxics Program Background

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The Air Resources Board's (ARB/Board) statewide comprehensive air toxics program was established in the early 1980's. The Toxic Air Contaminant Identification and Control Act (AB 1807, Tanner 1983) created California's program to reduce exposure to air toxics. The Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Information and Assessment Act (AB 2588, Connelly 1987) supplements the AB 1807 program, by requiring a statewide air toxics inventory, notification of people exposed to a significant health risk, and facility plans to reduce these risks.

Under AB 1807, the ARB is required to use certain criteria in the prioritization for the identification and control of air toxics. In selecting substances for review, the ARB must consider criteria relating to "the risk of harm to public health, amount or potential amount of emissions, manner of, and exposure to, usage of the substance in California, persistence in the atmosphere, and ambient concentrations in the community" [Health and Safety Code Section 39666(f)]. AB 1807 also requires the ARB to use available information gathered from the AB 2588 program to include in the prioritization of compounds. This report includes available information on each of the above factors required under the mandates of the AB 1807 program. AB 1807 and AB 2588 are described in more detail below.

### AB 1807 Program

In 1983, the California Legislature established a two-step process of risk identification and risk management to address the potential health effects from air toxic substances and protect the public health of Californians. During the first step (identification), the ARB and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) determines if a substance should be formally identified as a toxic air contaminant (TAC) in California. During this process, the ARB and the OEHHA staff draft a report that serves as the basis for this determination. The ARB staff assesses the potential for human exposure to a substance and the OEHHA staff evaluates the health effects. A thorough public process assures accountability and public input. Public workshops are conducted to allow for direct exchanges of information with interested constituencies. The draft risk assessments themselves are published and widely distributed with a public notice requesting comment to further assure involvement. The final risk assessment (identification) report includes a record of the public comments and how they were addressed. After the ARB and the OEHHA staff hold several comment periods and workshops, the report is then submitted to an independent, nine member, Scientific Review Panel (SRP), who review the report for its scientific accuracy. If the SRP approves the report, they develop specific scientific findings which are officially submitted to the ARB. The ARB staff then prepares a hearing notice and draft regulation to formally identify the substance as a TAC. Based on the input from the public and the information gathered from the report, the Board will decide whether to identify a substance as a TAC. Any person may petition the Board to review a previous

determination by providing new evidence.

In the second step (risk management), the ARB reviews the emission sources of an identified TAC to determine if any regulatory action is necessary to reduce the risk. The analysis includes a review of controls already in place, the available technologies and associated costs for reducing emissions, and the associated risk. Public outreach is an essential element in the development of a control plan and any control measure to ensure that the ARB efforts are cost-effective and appropriately balance public health protection and economic growth.

In 1993, the California Legislature amended the AB 1807 program for the identification and control of TACs (AB 2728). Specifically, AB 2728 required the ARB to identify the 189 federal hazardous air pollutants as TACs. For those substances that have not previously been identified under AB 1807 and identified under AB 2728, health effects values will need to be developed. This report will serve as a basis for that evaluation. For substances that were not identified as TACs and are on the TAC Identification List, this report will provide information to evaluate which substances may be entered into the air toxics identification process.

#### AB 2588 "Hot Spots" Program

In September 1987, the California Legislature established the AB 2588 air toxics "Hot Spots" program. It requires facilities to report their air toxics emissions, ascertain health risks, and to notify nearby residents of significant risks. The emissions inventory and risk assessment information from this program has been incorporated into this report. In September 1992, the "Hot Spots" Act was amended by Senate Bill 1731 which required facilities that pose a significant health risk to the community to reduce their risk through a risk management plan.

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